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TAGS: [SOCI](#) [KFLU](#) [WHO](#) [CASC](#) [LO](#)
SUBJECT: SLOVAKIA H1N1 UPDATE: RATE OF INFECTION INCREASING,
GOVERNMENT REMAINS LOW-KEY

REF: A. BRATISLAVA 471
[1](#)B. BRATISLAVA 475

[1](#)1. (U) The rate of H1N1 infection in Slovakia continues to rise, as 133 new cases of H1N1 flu were officially diagnosed in the week ending November 20. The previous week had seen 72 new cases, and before that just 29 new ones. In all likelihood, these numbers greatly understate the actual prevalence of H1N1, as relatively few of the 40,000 people in the country exhibiting flu-like symptoms in recent weeks have been tested for H1N1. Still, the public seems relatively unconcerned about the spread of the virus, as it has apparently caused only a single death in Slovakia.

[1](#)2. (SBU) The controls implemented at the Ukraine border (reftels) are continuing, and WHO Country Director Darina Sedlakova told us that 10-15 Ukrainians have been denied entry because they exhibited flu-like symptoms. Otherwise, the government appears to be taking few measures in response to the outbreak. Negotiations with vaccine companies are not yet completed, and contrary to misleading reports in the local media, our sources tell us that H1N1 vaccines will not be available in Slovakia until February at the earliest.

EDDINS